

# HAMSPLATTER

January 1998



The Fort Wayne Radio Club

W9TTE



To:

THE FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB  
PO Box 15127  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46885



# Hamsplatter

*"The Christmas Banquet was a lot of fun with Santa making his appearance"*

January 1998

Volume 27 Issue 1



Editor:  
Todd Hargb,  
N9XRG 492-2138

President:  
Bill Stockslager,  
N9WS 471-5492

Vice President:  
Scott Price,  
N9VZJ 744-1927

Secretary:  
Al Burke,  
WB9SSE 637-1989

Treasurer:  
Bob Streeter,  
W8ST 672-9737

Communications  
Manager:  
Cliff Shreve,  
N9MKB 483-7570

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## Christmas Banquet a Rousing Success

Happy New Year to all! December was a very active month for all of us and included several club events. The Christmas Banquet was a lot of fun with Santa making his appearance and Jay Fox providing entertainment. The food was aplenty and all enjoyed themselves. A special thanks to Santa, Cliff Shreve (N9MKB); to the ladies who attended to the details of obtaining the food and other items that made the banquet such a success, Carole Burke (WB9RUS), Becky Stockslager (N2XUW), and Anne Pliett (KA9YYI); to Carl Rittenhouse (N9NRO) for the PA system; to Bill Hall (WD9HII) for his work in providing the church's facilities and set up and to every one else who provided desserts and other platters and who pitched in for both setup and cleanup.

The Santa Live via ATV was a great success with improvements being made in the coordination and the use of 2 cameras at both sites. We even had local news coverage of the event both at the evening and late night news WANE TV 15. This

kind of activity is good community service by the club. The news coverage was a nice plus that needs to be repeated at other events this year as well. Those key to the success of this event were Cliff Shreve (N9MKB), Carl Rittenhouse (N9NRO), Jim Pliett (KA9YYI), Jim Machamer (KB9DOS), Kim Machamer (KB9DOT), Scott Sides (N9PXG), Clint Stedge (KB9LOF), Wayne Bergamino (KB9OZH), Larry Coblentz (N9WOY) Becky Stockslager (N2XUW), and Bill Stockslager (N9WS).

**Next Meeting  
Friday 1/16/98  
at the Good Shepherd  
United Methodist  
Church  
Corner of Vance Ave  
and Reed Rd**

The New Year is upon us and I thought it appropriate to provide a list of Club events for the 1998, as I know of them at this time. Your input for any event that I overlooked will be appreciated.

January: 8, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 16, 7:30 PM - Club Meeting (Auction Night)  
February: 1, 1:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 12, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 20, 7:30 PM -

Club Meeting March: 1, 1:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 12, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 20, 7:30 PM - Club Meeting  
April: 5, 1:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 9, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 17, 7:30 PM - Club Meeting  
May: 4, 6:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 7, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 15, 7:30 PM - Club Meeting; 16, 5:30 AM - Dayton Hamvention Trip  
June: 1, 6:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 11, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 19, 7:30 PM - Club Meeting; 27 & 28 - Field Day  
July: 6, 6:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 9, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 17, 7:30 PM - Club Meeting  
August: 3, 6:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 13, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 21, 7:30 PM - Club Meeting  
September: 7, 6:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 10, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 18, 7:30 PM - Club Meeting  
October: 4, 1:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 8, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 16, 7:30 PM - Club Meeting  
November: 1, 1:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 12, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 14 & 15 - Indiana State Convention & Hamfest; 20, 7:30 PM - Club Meeting  
December: 6, 1:30 PM - Fox Hunt; 10, 7:30 PM - Board Meeting; 18, 7:30 PM - Christmas Banquet; 19, 12:00 PM - Santa Live ATV  
See you all at the Auction beginning at 7:30 PM, Friday, January 16!  
73s Bill Stockslager (N9WS)

## December Minutes

The November meeting of the FWRC Board of Directors was held on 11 December, 1997 starting at 07:30 p.m. The meeting was attended by Bill Stockslager, Becky Stockslager, Dave Evans, Jim Pliett, Scott Price, Larry Burke, Jeanette Burke, Carl Rittenhouse, Cliff Shreve, Bob Streeter, Carole Burke and Al Burke.

1. Scott Price discussed interference that has been occurring on the .94 machine. He believes it is coming from one or more stations to the east of us attempting to work the .94 machine in Lima. One solution to the problem relative to our machine would be to implement a tone squelch. However, this could impose a significant requirement on users of our machine given that everyone would then have to acquire tone squelch capability on their transmit side. If we were to do this, it was felt that we should first discuss it, and then put it up to a vote of the club membership. Another approach would be to tighten up the receive squelch on the input. It was decided that Scott would attempt to identify the locations of the stations getting into the machine now, and then, based upon their distance from .94 consider if tightening the squelch would indeed solve the problem.

2. Bill Stockslager informed the Board that an audit of the club accounts will occur Saturday morning, December 13, 1997 at the Omega Restaurant starting at 09:00. The audit committee consists of Bill Stockslager,

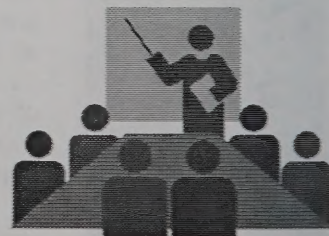
Dave Evans, Tom Wosniewski, Jim Machamer, Bob Streeter and Carl Rittenhouse. The results should be available at the next Board meeting. Bob Streeter suggested that an operating budget for the '98 club year be developed so that we could plan expenditures against income. It was agreed that this process would be started at the audit meeting on the 13th.

3. Discussion about the steps taken to solve the "911" Autopatch interference indicated that reprogramming the controller to block 911 calls was effective. There was also some discussion relative to eventually reinstalling the capability. There does not appear to be an overwhelming case to reactivate 911 as cell phones are persuasive nowadays, and, most repeaters are monitored by base station listeners who could make a land-line 911 phone call if requested by a person on the scene of an accident, etc.

4. Cliff Shreve asked if we were planning to have presents for the kids expected at the club Christmas Dinner. Becky Stockslager and Carole Burke stated that yes there were plans for presents, and that they would arrange for them. There was also a question regarding the M&M hand-outs distributed during the Santa-ATV activity. Jim Pliett would arrange for Annie to acquire the hand-outs and deliver them to Cliff. The cost for the M&M's was expected to be less than \$20.00.

5. Our contract with IPFW relative to the ATV facility is past due for renewal. Larry Temenhoff is our contact at IPFW, but evidently the contract is negotiated through the Chancellor's office. Much discussion ensued regarding renewal of the contract. It became evident that a copy of the most current contract may not be available to us, however, we should be able to obtain a copy of it through Larry Temenhoff. Bill Stockslager took the action to contact Larry and get a new contract in place. Among other things, it is expected that IPFW will want to see proof of liability insurance for the club.

6. Bill Stockslager noted that an inventory of club property is overdue. Material is stored at several sites including, it is believed, at John Goller's, Carl Rittenhouse's, Bill Hall's, Bill Kindred's, Homer Evans', Jim Wolf's, Jim Pliett's, Walt Wood's and at the church. There are undoubtedly other sites that we are not aware of. Discussion suggested that we must do two things; determine what the club has, and if possible, find a single location where the material could be safely stored. Storing club property at a single location when not in use would certainly simplify the problem of managing it. Cliff Shreve, Bill Stockslager, Jim Pliett and Scott Price agreed to work these two



issues. In addition, Jim Pliett agreed to research the possibility of donating a small piece of land (about 0.1 acres) that could be used by the club for a storage shed.

Action items for discussion at the next BOD meeting include: Report on .94 interference situation (reference item 1)- Scott Price.

Report on results of financial audit of club's books, and status of draft '98 budget (reference item 1)- Bill Stockslager and Bob Streeter.

Report on renewal of contract for the ATV facility with IPFW (reference item 5)- Bill Stockslager.

Report on inventory initiative (reference item 6)- Cliff Shreve

Report on possibility of donating property to club for a storage facility (reference item 6)- Jim Pliett.

Respectfully recorded,  
Al Burke, WB9SSE  
Secretary, FWRC



## Windtrax Launch planned

WindTrax ([www.windtrax.org](http://www.windtrax.org)) is a volunteer group out of central Indiana who help middle and high school kids learn about space, aeronautics, and amateur radio with some real hands-on experience. There have been 15 Windtrax launches in the last few years, which involve sending a weather balloon carrying several electronic boxes up about 120,000 feet, and then back to earth on a parachute. There are at least 5 more launches scheduled for various times in 1998.

One of those launches will be right here in Allen County on August 15th. The usual approach is that a school decides they would like to get involved, they find a corporate sponsor to both finance some of the cost of the weather balloon itself and other various supplies needed, and to lend some experienced helping hands from their employee pool, and the WindTrax people provide some of the expertise and usually the communications boxes that become part of the launch vehicle. It becomes a great learning experience for the kids, and a lot of fun for the helping hands!

The Allen County launch will be somewhat unique in how it will be run. The "school" in this case is actually an Explorer Scout troop consisting of approximately 8 9th and 10th grade boys from various local high schools. The corporate sponsor for the troop and the Windtrax launch project is ITT Aerospace / Communication Division here in Fort Wayne, and instead of

simply getting the three communications boxes from the

WindTrax people, they are going to assemble one of the boxes themselves. They have chosen the 2M to 70CM voice crossband repeater. It will consist of a receiver, a transmitter, a control module and a battery power supply. Engineers from ITT will assist in the balloon launch planning and calculations, and some local hams will be needed to help the boys in understanding the basics of the repeater, and in assembling the box.

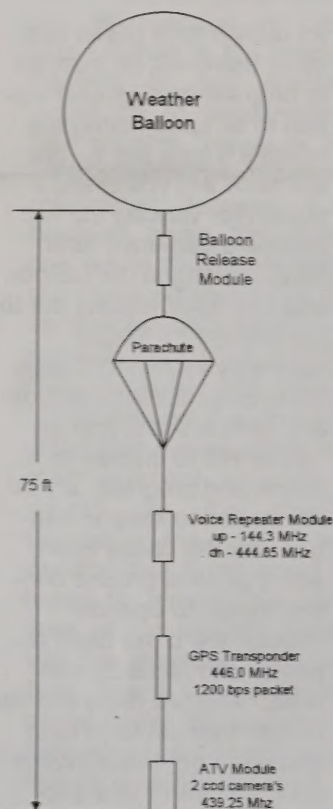
As launch time draws near, other hams will be needed to help set up a ground station to be used during the roughly 6 hour flight. We will need an ATV ground station for viewing the two on-board camera's (one B&W looking at the balloon and one color looking out to the horizon), a 70CM telemetry receiving station to receive location, altitude and temperature, and tie into APRS to display its location and progress, a 75M HF station to keep in contact with the chase team, and a general ground control station to operate through the cross band repeater and facilitate contacts. This will likely involve people from all local ham clubs and organizations to bring this effort to a successful finish.

The scouts are meeting every other Monday evening at the ITT facility at Cook and Lima roads in north Fort Wayne, but the hams will

*(Continued on page 4)*

not have to be there for every meeting. If you are interested in participating in this fascinating project, please contact Don Gagnon, WB8HQS, at 451-6649 during the day to discuss participation. This is a golden opportunity to show ham radio to some youngsters and be involved in a fun and exciting project!

73 Don WB8HQS



## INARRL BULLETIN 83-97

SUBJECT: INDIANA SCANNER LAW REVISITED

November 7, 1997

This bulletin is being republished for the benefit of amateur radio operators and in particular to new hams who may not be aware of the Indiana Code concerning use of a radio receiver that is capable of intercepting police or law enforcement frequencies.

It is not a scanner law per se, but the amateur radio community has sort of placed a moniker on this code. This code is available to read in its entirety on the internet or hard copy document. There have been situations of authorities not being aware of the code which caused some amateurs a little period of grief until the situation was resolved.

The purpose again is to remind amateur radio operators that a law exists that pertains to the use of receiving devices. A scanner hobby enthusiast in our part of the state who loved to monitor the railroad frequencies was innocently caught up in the web from a minor driving infraction, the scanner was observed lying in the seat. The result was an arrest (not for the driving infraction) confiscation of the device, fines and court costs. Said individual now possesses a ham ticket. Further, this code only applies to Indiana, be aware other states or territories have their own rules which may differ considerably from ours.

IC 35-44-3-12

Sec. 12.

(a) A person who knowingly or intentionally:

- (1) possesses a police radio;
- (2) transmits over a frequency assigned for police emergency purposes; or
- (3) possesses or uses a police radio:

(A) while committing a crime;

(B) to further the commission of a crime; or

(C) to avoid detection by a law enforcement agency; commits unlawful use of a police radio, a Class B misdemeanor.

(b) Subsection (a)(1) and (a)(2) do not apply to:

- (1) a governmental entity;
- (2) a regularly employed law enforcement officer;
- (3) a common carrier of persons for hire whose vehicles are used in emergency service;
- (4) a public service or utility company whose vehicles are used in emergency service;

(5) a person who has written permission from the chief executive officer of a law enforcement agency to possess a police radio;

(6) a person who holds an amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission if the person is not transmitting over a frequency assigned for police emergency purposes;

(7) a person who uses a police radio only in the person's dwelling or place of business;

(8) a person:

(A) who is regularly engaged in newsgathering

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

activities;

(B) who is employed by a newspaper qualified to receive legal advertisements under IC 5-3-1, a wire service, or a licensed commercial or public radio or television station; and

(C) whose name is furnished by his employer to the chief executive officer of a law enforcement agency in the county in which the employer's principal office is located;

(9) a person engaged in the business of manufacturing or selling police radios; or

(10) a person who possesses or uses a police radio during the normal course of the person's lawful business.

(c) As used in this section, "police radio" means a radio that is capable of sending or receiving signals transmitted on frequencies assigned by the Federal Communications Commission for police emergency purposes and that:

(1) can be installed, maintained, or operated in a vehicle; or

(2) can be operated while it is being carried by an individual.

The term does not include a radio designed for use only in a dwelling.

As added by Acts 1977, P.L.342, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.162-1994, SEC.1.

Submitted by Don Evilsizor



## INARRL BULLETIN 95-97

### SUBJECT: PACKET RADIO AND EMAIL

I would like to announce a service we provide here at the Fort Wayne Amateur Radio Internet Gateway (FWARIG) that allows you as a packet user to send email onto the Internet and receive replies at your packet radio BBS.

If you are interested in this service, then send a personal message to "gate@kf9ug.#nin.in.usa.no.am". On the 1st line in the message, include the email address you want the message forwarded to. On the 2nd line, include your full packet hierarchical address. The rest of the message is what you want forwarded to the Internet.

Please be sure to follow the directions above. That helps us determine who you want the message forwarded to.

It would be very helpful to the recipient of your message if you explain to them what's going on. Many times in the past we have received replies from the Internet that do not include your hierarchical address and we have no idea who to forward it back to.

So how does someone on the Internet send a message or reply to an Amateur Radio Operator on packet radio? They send their email message to "gate@kf9ug.centralnet.net". The 1st line of their message should include the full hierarchical packet address of the Amateur Radio Operator. The 2nd line contains

their email address. (Just the opposite of what you'd do from packet radio). The rest of their message is the message they want to have forwarded to packet radio. The sender of the message does not need to be an Amateur Radio Operator. We screen each message we receive from the Internet and only forward ones we can legally forward. This means Internet users that send messages to Amateur Radio Operators that the United States does not have a 3rd party agreement CANNOT be forwarded onto the packet network.

This might sound a little complicated but it really isn't. Just follow the guidelines above and the whole process on your part, our part, and the part of the recipient works great!

When we at FWARIG forward a message, we include some instructions at the bottom of each message that gives the recipient the needed information to successfully reply. Our experience has shown that about 40% of them do it correctly the 1st time. That's OK though. We hold all messages we forward and are willing to lookup the misaddressed messages.

We hope you find this service useful. If you have any questions, please send me a message. I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have.

God Bless es 73 de Michael  
KF9UG

Submitted by Don Evilsizor

# For Sale

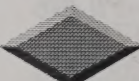
Icom IC-2AT 2 meter HT with manual, IC-BP3 battery, BC-25U wall charger and custom Bianchi leather holster. All in like new condition. Asking \$75.00 Call Francis Barr W9ETT at 637-6479

# Wanted

No submissions

All ads will run on a month by month basis. Please advise me if you need your ad run more than one month or you wish to extend your ad another month.

Thanks and 73s,  
Todd Hargis N9XRG



# Attention

We are currently trying to compile a database of the e-mail addresses of members. This database will be used possibly in the future to distribute the Hamsplatter and thus lower the total operating costs of the club. Please send an e-mail message to [hargis@mail.org](mailto:hargis@mail.org) and put Hamsplatter in the subject line.

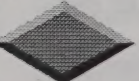
Thanks in advance for the help. We are trying to currently find ways to reduce costs so we can maintain the activities, which we currently enjoy.

73s,  
N9XRG

**Check out the new "Fort Wayne Radio Club Home Page" at:**

<http://user.centralnet.net/kevina/fwrc>

Do you have an interesting article or cartoon which you can contribute to the Hamsplatter? Do you have some spare equipment collecting dust that you might want to sell? If so please contact me, Todd Hargis N9XRG, at 492-2138 (leave detailed message and phone number if no answer) or I can also be reached via E-mail at "hargis@mail.org".



**February Hamsplatter Deadline: *February 1, 1997***



Membership Data: (Give this form to the treasurer at any FWRC meeting or mail to the address below)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class:   N     T     G     A     AE  

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Shall we list your address and phone number in the membership roster   Y     N  ?

Are you presently an ARRL member   Y     N  ?

Membership Term: (Jan - Dec) (Jul - Dec)

Family Membership:        \$21.00yr        \$10.50yr immediate family (list all callsigns)

Regular Membership:        \$15.00yr        \$7.50yr licensed member

Student Membership:        \$6.00yr        \$3.00yr full time student

Associate Membership:        \$15.00yr        \$7.50yr unlicensed member

Your Check Number \_\_\_\_\_ please pay by check. It's easier for both of us.

**Mail to:** The Fort Wayne Radio Club

PO Box 15127

Fort Wayne, IN 46885